

MNC-5127
5 November 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Nicosia Bureau -- October

I. GENERAL

A. Construction of the new bureau began early in the month. Excavation work on the building's foundations has been completed and at month's end work was progressing on pouring the foundations and structural columns. Excavation of the foundations for the security wall around the site were to begin in early November. On the paperfront, the bureau's project team spent most of the month correcting oversights and inconsistencies in the drawings and specifications. The five major subcontracts covering mechanical, electrical, security, and standby generator systems, as well as interference-free lighting fixtures, were awarded after a thorough analysis of the bids.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. In light of AFP reports citing the 7 October seizure of the Italian cruiseship "Achille Lauro" by Palestinian commandos off the coast of Egypt and their threat to kill the U.S. passengers aboard if their demands were not broadcast over Egyptian radio and television, the bureau implemented a crisis scheduling plan to ensure 24-hour coverage of monitorable Cairo media. At the Wire's request, the bureau's sole Hebrew monitor was called in to cover Tel Aviv IDF radio and Jerusalem Domestic Service during Tel Aviv Bureau's hours of closure on the night of 7-8 October. Upon receipt of an 8 October Paris Radio Monte Carlo report that the vessel was sailing in the direction of Cyprus, the bureau also placed Nicosia radio on open watch until the transmitter signed off. Through these coverage efforts, the bureau was able to keep local embassy officers and headquarters components thoroughly apprised of breaking developments in the hijacking via media behavior FYI's and wirefiled items.

On 9 October, with monitored Egyptian radios confirming the hijackers' surrender to Egyptian authorities in Port Said, the bureau stood down from its 24-hour watch. We continued to file liberally in the aftermath of the hijacking, however, focusing on Egyptian media reports and comment on the interception of the aircraft carrying the Palestinian hijackers by U.S. warplanes and the subsequent demonstration staged in Cairo in protest of this action.

2. In response to ongoing Wire interest in the fate of the U.S. citizens who continue to be held captive in Lebanon, the bureau made a special effort to rapidly obtain copies of the 4 and 12 October issues of the Beirut newspaper AL-NAHAR, which published statements by the Islamic Jihad organization on the "execution" of American hostage William Buckley. Per Wire request, the 12 October edition, which contained a photograph alleged to be of Mr. Buckley's body, was pouched to headquarters.

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3. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon (RFL), affiliated with the Christian Lebanese Forces, has been unheard at Nicosia Bureau on its mediumwave frequency since 3 October. On 5 October, the Beirut Voice of Lebanon, a station originally associated with the Phalangist Party but taken over by the Lebanese Forces in September, broadcast a statement from the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee's Information Department indicating that RFL had ceased mediumwave transmission "for several days" for maintenance but that its FM transmissions would continue. We have been unable to confirm the continuation of FM transmission because of seasonal propagation conditions. Our Arabic and cruising monitors suspect that RFL's cessation of broadcasting is linked to the September takeover of the radio, in that the Lebanese Forces do not require two stations.

4. The 2 October edition of Beirut AL-NAHAR published a report that the "Syriac League in Lebanon" has inaugurated its own radio station, known as the Voice of the Syrians, which is not to be politically oriented, according to League Chairman Habib Afram. The new radio has not been heard in Nicosia to date.

5. A station identifying itself as "Radio Delta" and indicating that it is directed at "Beirut, north Lebanon, the mountain and Cyprus" is being heard at Nicosia 0550-2100 GMT daily. Its programming consists entirely of entertainment and advertisements in Arabic.

6. The bureau has assumed coverage of a new Turkish newspaper, Istanbul HURGUN in Turkish, which purports to pursue "respect for democracy" in its reportage and comment. Its editorials to date suggest that it will serve as an opposition paper.

B. Technical

1. Work continued on cleanup and final antenna tuning at the Lara remote site. The antenna configuration there includes three long wires, a sloping long wire, a monopole, a Ras-10 dipole, a 30x15-foot loop for HF coverage, and two rotatable antennas (one FM and one Band III) for VHF coverage. We also have use of two antennas owned by CYTA, one an HF Hermes loop and the other a tower-mounted FM antenna. Thus, we now have four more antennas than were available at our previous site, in a configuration that provides significant improvement in our reception, particularly of Greek transmitters.

2. One Sharp VHS multistandard videocassette recorder, Model VC-5M6E, was purchased for the bureau.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Regional Engineer [] spent 8-14 October TDY at Gulf STAT Bureau to repair and supply training on the bureau's emergency generator.
2. Deputy Chief [] returned to duty 29 October following stateside R&R.

STAT

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B. Visitors

1. [] FBIS deputy director, and Mr. [], STAT
chief/ESG, visited the bureau 16-19 October.

[] STAT
Bureau Chief
Nicosia Bureau

ATTACHMENT: Production Report

Nicosia Bureau Production Report for October 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	314220
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	88020
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1031

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	8565.00 min.	22260.00 min.	117.00 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

CHINA			
Beijing in			
Persian to Iran	0		
CLANDESTINE (LEVANT)			
(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in			
Arabic	1990		
(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in			
Arabic	7370		
CYPRUS			
Nicosia Domestic Service in			
Greek	9780		
*Nicosia Television Service in			
Greek	770		
Nicosia Cyprus MAIL in			
English			320
Nicosia ELEVETHEROTIFIA in			
Greek			0
Nicosia I SIMERINI in			
Greek			1900
Nicosia I SIMERINI tis DHEFTERAS in			
Greek			0
Nicosia KHARAVYI in			
Greek			710
Nicosia KHARAVYI tis DHEFTERAS in			
Greek			0
Nicosia O FILELEVETHEROS in			
Greek			420
Nicosia O FILELEVETHEROS tis			
DHEFTERAS in			
Greek			0

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
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*Nicosia PRESS AND INFORMATION
OFFICE in
English

3720

EGYPT

Cairo Domestic Service in
Arabic

31750

*Cairo Voice of the Arabs in
Arabic

4070

Cairo MENA in
Arabic

72660

Cairo MENA in
English

3420

FRANCE

Paris AFP in
English

33230

GREECE

Athens Domestic Service in
Greek

23720

Athens ATHENS NEWS in
English

1970

Athens ELEVETHEROTIPIA in
Greek

5760

Athens I KATHIMERINI in
Greek

0

Athens KIRIAKATIKI ELEVETHEROTIPIA in
Greek

0

Athens RIZOSPASTIS in
Greek

1710

IRAQ

Baghdad in
Persian to Iran

0

ISRAEL

*Jerusalem Domestic Service in
Hebrew

280

*Tel Aviv IDF Radio in
Hebrew

460

ITALY

*Rome ANSA in
English

670

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
LEBANON			
Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic	41980		
Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic	35800		
*Beirut Voice of Lebanon in English	230		
Beirut Ihdin Radio of Free & Unified Lebanon in Arabic	2130		
Beirut AL_NAHAR in Arabic			4430
Beirut AL_SAFIR in Arabic			1070
Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English			3230
LIBYA			
Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic	1540		
TURKEY			
Ankara YANKI in Turkish			0
*Istanbul BULVAR in Turkish			370
Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish			4340
Istanbul DUNYA in Turkish			0
Istanbul GUNAYDIN in Turkish			890
*Istanbul GUNES in Turkish			1490
Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish			1820
Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish			1680
Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish			490
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS			
Moscow in Greek to Cyprus	0		
Moscow in Persian to Iran	6050		